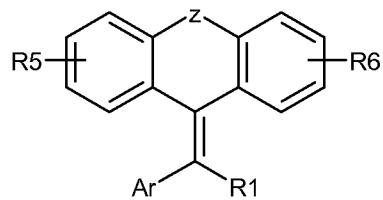


Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 – 23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) A compound of the formula:

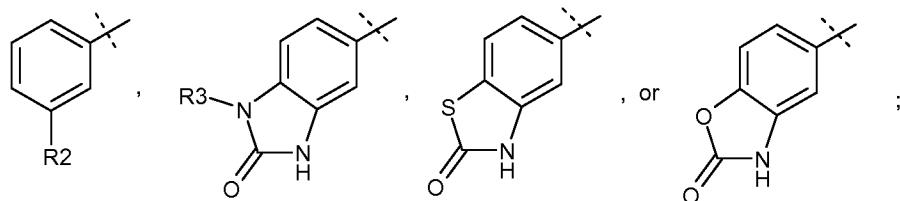


Formula I

wherein,

Z represents CH₂, S, or O;

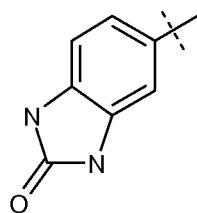
Ar represents a group of the formula:



R¹ represents hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R² represents amino or NH SO₂R⁴;

R³ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-substituted heterocycle, provided that where Ar represents:



then Z is other than O;

R⁴ represents independently at each occurrence (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R⁵ and R⁶ represent independently at each occurrence hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, hydroxy, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy-(C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl, NHR⁷, or N(R⁷)₂ wherein R⁷ represents independently at each occurrence (C₁-C₆)alkyl or (C₃-C₇)cycloalkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

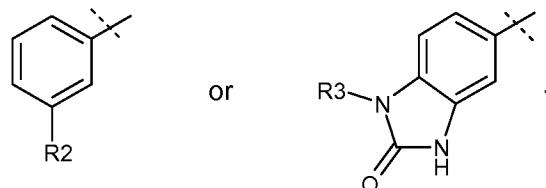
25. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein R1 represents hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

26. (New) The compound according to Claim 25 wherein R1 represents hydrogen.

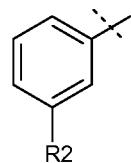
27. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein Z represents S or O.

28. (New) The compound according to Claim 27 wherein Z represents S.

29. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein Ar represents a group of the formula:

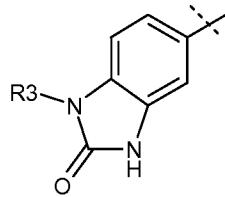


30. (New) The compound according to Claim 29 wherein Ar represents a group of the formula:



31. (New) The compound according to Claim 30 wherein R2 represents NH SO₂CH₃.

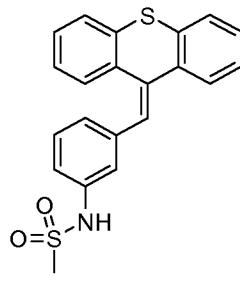
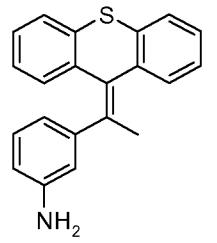
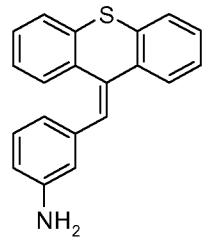
32. (New) The compound according to Claim 29 wherein Ar represents a group of the formula:

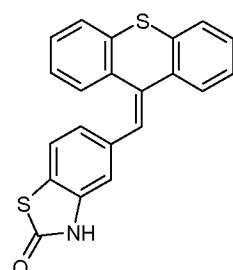
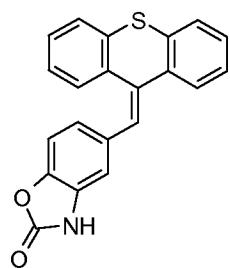
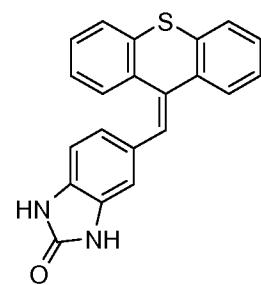
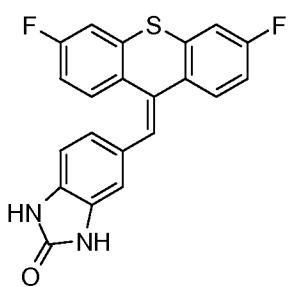
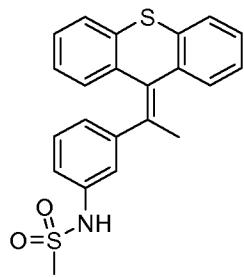


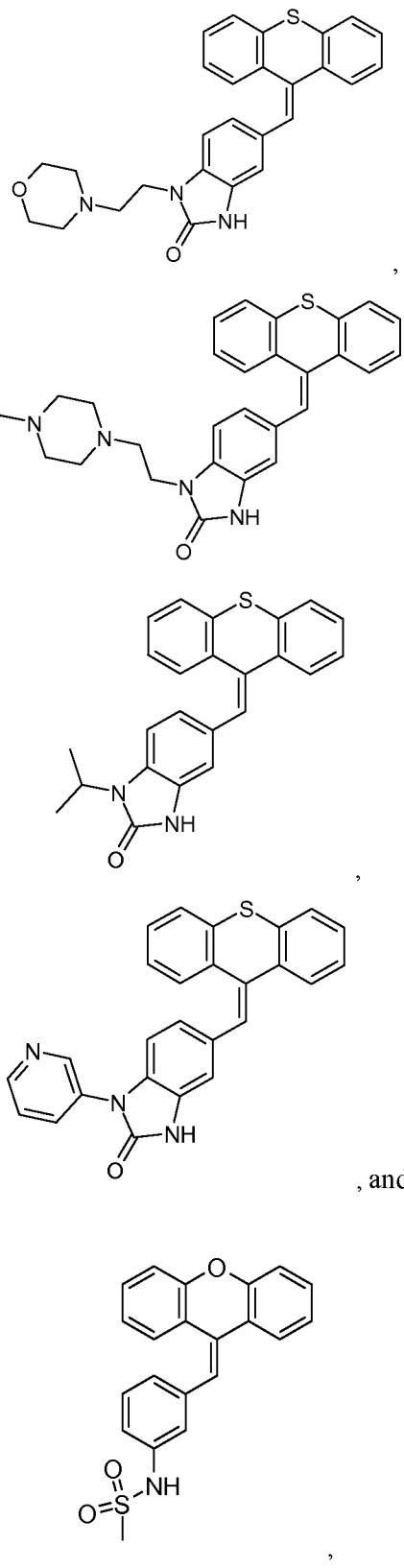
33. (New) The compound according to Claim 32 wherein R3 represents hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-heterocycle, or (C₁-C₄)alkyl-substituted heterocycle .

34. (New) The compound according to Claim 24 wherein R⁵ and R⁶ represent independently at each occurrence hydrogen or flouro.

35. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of







or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

36. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to Claim 24 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.